

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-07 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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R 131409Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 913

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 10233

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ET

SUBJ: REVOLUTION DAY

REF: ADDIS ABABA 10204 (NOTAL)

1. AS INDICATED REFTEL, REVOLUTION DAY CELEBRATIONS PASSED IN ADDIS WITHOUT INCIDENT AND THUS FAR WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF ANY PROBLEMS OUTSIDE OF ADDIS. DIRG WAS OUT IN FORCE FOR ADDIS PARADE (FBIS REPORTED 60 WHICH MAY BE A SHADE HIGH, BUT NOT MUCH). CHAIRMAN, BG TEFERI BANTI, AND TWO VICE CHAIRMEN SEEMED IN RELAXED, CONFIDENT MOOD. CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH (SEPTTEL) WAS GENERALLY MODERATE IN TONE. CROWD, WHICH WE ESTIMATE MAY HAVE REACHED 100,000, WAS GENERALLY QUIET, AND IN VICINITY OF REVIEWING STAND, LARGELY UNDEMONSTRATIVE. WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS (REFTTEL), PLACARDS CARRIED BY MARCHERS STRESSED ANTI-FEUDALISM, ANTI-IMPERIALISM AND ANTI-BUREAUCRATIC CAPITALISM THEMES OR VARIATIONS THEREOF. THERE WERE AT LEAST THREE TRIBUTES TO MAO TSE-TUNG IN ADDITION TO REMAKRS CONTAINED IN CHAIRMAN'S

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SPEECH, BUT INTERESTINGLY, NO PICTURES OF LENIN, MARX

ET AL SUCH AS APPEARED IN LAST YEAR'S PARADE.

2. IN ADDITION TO FAILURE OF BAD RUMORS TO MATERIALIZE, OTHERS THAT WERE ALSO MAKING ROUNDS PROVED INCORRECT AS WELL. THUS, THERE WERE NO MINISTERIAL CHANGES (LAST-MINUTE HAD CHAIRMAN HIMSELF BEING REPLACED), A NEW INCOMES POLICY WAS NOT ANNOUNCED, AND NO NEW HOUSING DECREE APPEARED. WE HAD SOME REPORTS THAT MORE PRISONERS WERE RELEASED IN SMALL BATCHES PRIOR TO REVOLUTION DAY, BUT ALSO HEARD OF NEW ARRESTS IN CONNECTION WITH CRACK-DOWN ON ETHIOPIANS PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (EPRP). SOME PRISONERS WERE ANNOUNCED PRIOR TO SEPT 12 AS HAVING BEEN RELEASED IN ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS, BUT THERE WAS NO FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENT OF RELEASES IN ADDIS. WE UNDERSTAND AMALGAMATION OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTRY OF LANDS AND SETTLEMENT IS AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT SINCE NOMINATION OF NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND SETTLEMENT (ADDIS 9787), BUT THIS HAS NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY.

3. IT POSSIBLE THAT ONE OR MORE OF RUMORS NOTED PARA 2 ABOVE MAY STILL COME TRUE, PARTICULARLY RELEASE OF PRISONERS, BUT WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT SUCH MAY BE CASE. TIENKEN

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